

ARTICLE 30
**Amend Zoning By-Laws: Off-Street Parking
and Loading Requirements**
(Planning Board)

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning Bylaws to provide for payment of parking mitigation funds to an offsite parking construction and acquisition fund, or otherwise act thereon.

RECOMMENDATION: By a vote of 11-0-0 on September 16, 2010, The Finance Committee recommends FAVORABLE ACTION with regard to the subject of Article 30.

During the review of this article it was noted:

- *The purpose of this article is intended to restore a portion of an article passed at the Fall 2008 Town Meeting that was disallowed by the Attorney General. Specifically, this article will establish a downtown parking fund, controlled by the Board of Selectmen, to be funded by payments for parking.*
- *This article was originally part of a broader amendment to the parking requirements for downtown parking. It established a parking fund. It was disallowed by the Attorney General because the Board of Selectmen did not have authority to create such a separate fund absent home rule legislation. That legislation has now been passed.*
- *Downtown parking is limited, and the lack of additional downtown parking is an obstacle to attracting new businesses to downtown, especially those that cannot meet the parking requirements under the Zoning Bylaw. This article provides a mechanism for (a) businesses in downtown Natick to be established with less than the full amount of parking required under the Zoning Bylaw by a payment to a parking fund and (b) the Town to amass a fund to be used to create additional parking downtown.*
- *The purpose of the proposed fund is to address public parking needs in the Downtown Mixed Use or HOOP Districts.*
- *The Finance Committee had recommended favorable action on the original Articles in 2008 and Town Meeting had approved the creation of the fund and its proposed use.*

MOTION: (Requires 2/3 vote)

Move that the Town vote to amend Section V-D.3 (Off-Street Parking and Loading Requirements) of the Natick Zoning Bylaws by inserting the following after section V-D.3.r):

“(s) Payments received under the provisions of Section V-D.3.r) of this By-Law shall be maintained in an offsite parking construction and acquisition fund from which monies may be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen for the sole purposes of new public parking construction and acquisition in the Downtown Mixed Use and/or any HOOP Districts.”

ARTICLE 31
Funding for Crossing Guard Positions
(Michael Walz, et al)

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate and raise or otherwise provide for the purpose of funding necessary crossing guard positions for the 2010-2011 school year.

RECOMMENDATION: By a vote of 10-0-0 on September 30, 2010, The Finance Committee recommends REFERRAL to the Sponsor with regard to the subject of Article 31.

During the review of this article it was noted:

- *The purpose of this article is to reinstate the crossing guard position at Regina Pratt Way and Pitts Street.*
- *The intersection in question is especially problematic due to its particular location and configuration, lack of pedestrian walkways or sidewalks; and its general state of disrepair due to its status as an unaccepted Town roadway.*
- *Although the decision to eliminate the crossing guard at this location was reported to be based on the small number of unaccompanied children typically using the intersection, the proponent believes other, equally relevant factors, such as moving and parked vehicles, and family pickup and drop-off activity, were not adequately taken into account.*
- *Representatives of the Town's Safety Committee provided information, including the results of a study which had been conducted, and reported plans made by the School Administration to train School personnel to provide crossing assistance.*
- *The Town's Safety Committee, which is chaired by the Police Chief, and includes the Town's Safety Officer and representation from the School Administration, and the School Administration had all indicated that the current arrangement was within their acceptable guidelines and that no accidents or safety incidents had been reported at this location.*
- *Although parking is prohibited within 60 feet of the school, signage regarding parking and traffic in this location was reported to be poorly visible.*
- *There were a number of Town officials at the FinCom hearing and all parties were in agreement that the Town needs to develop a strategic plan for this issue.*

During the FinCom's second review hearing of this article it was noted:

- *The Town Administrator confirmed that it was the Administration's intent to request the funding under Article 1 for two additional crossing guard positions and said the Police Department had committed that one of the two additional guards would be deployed at this location and was presently in place based on anticipation of favorable action on the necessary funding recommendation.*

MOTION: (Requires majority vote)

Move that the Town vote to refer the subject matter of Article 31 to the Sponsor.

ARTICLE 32

Consolidate School & Town Administrative Functions, Including but not Limited to Financial, Personnel, and Maintenance Functions

(Patrick Hayes, et al)

To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. c.71 §37M relative to the consolidation of the financial, personnel, IT and maintenance functions of the School Committee with those of the Town; or act on anything relative thereto.

This article authorizes the creation (but does not require implementation) of a consolidated administrative and facilities maintenance function between the Town and the Natick Public Schools (NPS) Committee. This State statute permits such consolidation if it is accepted by a vote of the Town Meeting and a vote of the School Committee.

At this time, no funding is being requested to create new departments or to hire any additional professionals to manage combined departments, but acceptance of this statute allows for the planning of such actions to occur.

RECOMMENDATION: By a vote of 10-1-0 on September 28, 2010, The Finance Committee recommends FAVORABLE ACTION with regard to the subject of Article 32.

During the review of this article it was noted:

- *The purpose of this Article is to have the Town vote to accept Massachusetts General Law chapter 71, section 37M which related to consolidation of Town and School Department functions.*
- *The text of the statute as follows:*
“Section 37M. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter forty-one or chapter seventy-one or any other special or general law to the contrary, any city or town which accepts the provisions of this section may consolidate administrative functions, including but not limited to financial, personnel, and maintenance functions, of the school committee with those of the city or town; provided, however, that such consolidation may occur only upon a majority vote of both the school committee and in a city, the city council, with approval of the mayor required by law or in a town, the annual town meeting or in a town with no town meeting, the town council.

(b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, a decision to consolidate functions pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section may be revoked by a majority vote of either the school committee of the city or town, or the city or town, or both as such vote is described in said paragraph (a).”

The Sponsor highlighted the following:

- *A vote to accept this statute would give the Town authorization to consolidate function, but there would be no requirement to do so.*
- *Acceptance of the statute requires affirmative votes by both the School Committee and Town Meeting. However, a vote by either party would be sufficient to reverse the acceptance. The acceptance could be reversed even if some consolidation had taken place and that consolidation could remain even as the blanket authorization was reversed.*
- *Discussions are already underway to explore consolidation of functions between the Town and School Department. If those discussions were to lead to a recommendation for formal*

Article 32 Cont'd

consolidation, the Sponsor believes that having a formal vote accepting this statute already in place could streamline the process and also avoid the potential for questions or challenges based on not having this formal endorsement of the concept in place.

- *The Sponsor believes the adoption of this statute would motivate and accelerate the types of functional consolidation between the two entities which was a key recommendation of the Expense Control Task Force as important strategies for reducing Town expenses.*

Member questions and discussion included the following:

- *There is no prohibition to continuing ongoing discussions relating to potential Town/School Department consolidations if this Article does not pass, and the statute is not accepted.*
- *The proponent is uncertain whether consolidations would be limited if the statute were not accepted; inquiries to six different attorneys produced six different opinions on this question. Survey of other communities revealed that approximately 7 or 8 have consolidated some functions, of which six have voted to accept the statute. In some cases, the vote to accept the statute followed the consolidations; in others it preceded those actions.*
- *Although acceptance of this provision would not necessarily give the School Committee any greater influence in potentially opposing efforts to consolidate functions, adoption of the statute by the Town as a whole is only possible if the School Committee adopts it as well.*
- *This item has not appeared on the School Committee's agenda as yet, however there was a suggestion this might be discussed at a meeting on October 4th.*

MOTION: (Requires majority vote)

Move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.71 §37M to allow consolidation of administrative functions, including but not limited to financial, IT, personnel, facilities and maintenance functions, of the School Committee with those of the Town.

ARTICLE 33
School and Municipal Budget Cooperation
(Patrick Hayes, et al)

To see if the Town will vote to accept M.G.L. c.71 §37M ½(a) which was amended by the Municipal Relief Act (H8477) relative to School and Municipal Budget Cooperation and which states..”. the superintendent of schools for each school district serving such municipality shall meet with the mayor, town manager, or chief municipal officer or his designee for that municipality to review the fiscal status of the school district budget and to identify opportunities for cost savings and efficiencies and any potential methodologies, including, but not limited to, joint procurement or consolidation of redundant functions. The results of each meeting shall be transmitted to the local legislative body and the local school committee not later than 30 days after the meeting.”, or at a date certain when the legislative body shall next meet.

This article authorizes such budget cooperation meetings, planning and efforts for cost savings and efficiencies between the Town and the Natick Public Schools (NPS) Committee. This State statute permits such planning and implementation efforts if it is accepted by a vote of the Town Meeting. This article does not require a vote of the School Committee.

At this time, no funding is being requested and acceptance of this article does not require the creation of any new departments or hiring of additional personnel.

RECOMMENDATION: By a vote of 11-0-0 on September 28, 2010, The Finance Committee recommends NO ACTION with regard to the subject of Article 33.

During the review of this article it was noted:

- *The Sponsor explained that, as the specific language which was the subject matter of this Article did not make it into the final bill passed by the state legislature, the Town Moderator had ruled that this Article was fatally flawed.*
- *The Sponsor therefore requested no action on Article 33.*

MOTION:

NO ACTION

ARTICLE 34
Funding for Improvements to
Oak Street Gravel Pit/Public Works Storage
(Sarkis Sarkisian, et al)

To determine whether the Town of Natick will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to be expended to make improvements to the Oak Street Gravel Pit/Public Works Storage area which shall include demolition of structures, design and construction of an additional fields and determine whether this appropriate shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise act thereon.

RECOMMENDATION: By a vote of 9-2-1 on September 28, 2010, The Finance Committee recommends REFERRAL TO THE SPONSOR, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DPW AND RECREATION DEPARTMENTS with regard to the subject of Article 34.

During the review of this article it was noted:

- *The purpose of this Article concerns the need for improvements to the Oak Street Gravel Pit/Public Works storage facility and, specifically, removal of the old salt shed which is in serious disrepair.*
- *A three-phased Master Plan for this area, developed in 1995 with broad-based community input, called for removal of this building and opening up the area for expansion of its recreational use.*
- *Recognizing the continuing need by the DPW for a storage facility, the Sponsor would request that any new structure be located on a different part of the area in order to open up the view between Oak Street and Morse's Pond.*
- *The Sponsor has been in communication with organizations and local athletic groups regarding the possibility of creating an additional field at this location, possibly with private donations and/or open space funds.*
- *There is a possibility that the MathWorks contractor might donate services to remove the old structure.*
- *This item is also being addressed by the Administration under Article 10 Capital Improvements. The Administration is proposing funding for replacement of the existing building with the plan of locating the new structure further away from the Town well and athletic field.*
- *The Administration had a longer range plan, consistent with the Gravel Pit Master Plan, to eventually abandon this property entirely as a gravel pit and lay down area, noting that there had been conversations with the National Guard for co-development at Speen Street site.*

MOTION: (Requires majority vote)

Move that the Town vote to refer the subject matter of Article 34 to the Sponsor, Town Administrator, Department of Public Works and Recreation Department.

ARTICLE 35
Funding for Improvements to
Memorial Field/West Street at High School
(Sarkis Sarkisian, et al)

To determine whether the Town of Natick will vote to raise and appropriate or otherwise provide a sum or sums of money to be expended to make improvements to Memorial Field/West Street at Natick High School which shall include design and construction of an additional turf field and determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise act thereon.

RECOMMENDATION: By a vote of 12-0-0 on September 28, 2010, The Finance Committee recommends REFERRAL TO THE SPONSOR with regard to the subject of Article 35.

During the review of this article it was noted:

- *The Sponsor stated that, at this time he was not prepared to go forward with this Article as he had spent much of the time since the Warrant closed attempting to contact businesses and other potential donors of materials and possible in-kind services for this effort.*
- *The Sponsor said it was obvious to him the condition of this field needed attention and he felt there were opportunities which could be pursued, but said he was not ready at this time, and recommended referral of the Article to the School Committee.*
- *The Sponsor added that he had not discussed this with the School Committee or the Board of Selectmen and apologized for not having done so.*

MOTION: (Requires majority vote)

Move that the Town vote to refer the subject matter of Article 35 to the Sponsor.

ARTICLE 36

Acceptance of Drainage Easement – East Central Street

(Paul R. Croft, et al)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept on behalf of the Town of Natick, a drainage easement from the owner(s) of property at 186 East Central Street, Natick, Assessors Map parcel 37 104B, provided that no money or other consideration shall be paid by or on behalf of the Town of Natick for the grant of such easement, and to accept as a gift, by the Developer Paul Croft or his assigns, the replacement of the existing deteriorated and improperly installed drainage pipes, some being outside the original easement, having been installed by the Town of Natick, provided that no money or other consideration shall be paid by or on behalf of the Town of Natick for the grant

Easement shall be over property at 186 East Central Street, shown as recorded in the Middlesex South County Registry of Deeds at Book 14721, Page 59, and to accept as a gift by the Developer Paul Croft or his assigns, the replacement of the existing deteriorated and improperly installed drainage pipes, some being outside the original easement, having been installed by the Town of Natick.

Said new easement as shown on a plan entitled DRAIN EASEMENT RELOCATION PLAN, By Connorstone Engineering Inc., dated August 20, 2010, or as amended by the Natick Department of Public Works Town Engineer, and attached hereto, and a copy is on file in the office of the Natick Town Clerk.

And to extinguish the existing drainage easement given to the Town of Natick as shown on a plan entitled Plan of Drainage Easement in Natick Mass., As Laid Out By The Department of Public Works, July 19, 1957, R. S. Wharton Chief Engineer, and recorded at the Middlesex South County Registry of Deeds at Book 7903, Page 334, copy of said plan is attached hereto and is on file in the office of the Natick Town Clerk, or otherwise act thereon.

RECOMMENDATION: By a vote of 15-0-0 on September 23, 2010, The Finance Committee recommends FAVORABLE ACTION with regard to the subject of Article 36.

During the review of this article it was noted:

- The purpose of this Article is to: (1) replace approximately 450 feet of deteriorated and failed Town of Natick drain line, (2) to correct the drain easement location so as to place the pipe within an easement, where it currently is outside the easement, and (3) to provide for easier maintenance access for the Town of Natick.*
- Two sections of the existing drain line are 73 years old, and the remainder is 53 years old. These are composed of corrugated metal pipe and are deteriorating and beginning to fail. Photos were distributed showing catch basins filled with dirt, and discharge from the failed system following a rainstorm. Surrounding this system is an easement which was granted to the Town in 1957.*
- The State installed the two oldest sections of the drain outside the original easement; the remainder, which is within the existing easement, has failed.*

Article 36 Cont'd

- *The developer is proposing to replace 450 feet of pipe at a cost of \$39,000, which has been verified by the Town's engineer as a reasonable valuation; extinguish the existing easement; and create a new easement which would run behind housing planned for construction, thereby providing easier access for the Town.*
- *The Town's engineers have reviewed the design and location of this and are working on the style and substance of the actual grant easement which will then be sent to Town Counsel for review.*
- *The easement will be written in such a way as to assure that the Town will not be responsible for any costs associated with pavement repair in the event of need to access this system.*

MOTION: (Requires 2/3 vote)

Move that the Town vote to abandon an easement for drainage purposes granted by Daniel J. O'Neil and Helen E. O'Neil by instrument dated 31, July 1957 and recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds at Book 9007, Page 017; provided that no money or other consideration shall be paid by or on behalf of the Town of Natick for such abandonment. Said Easement is located on the property of 186 East Central Street, Natick, MA, which property is shown on the Town of Natick Assessors' Map 37 as Lot 104B. Said easement is shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Drainage Easement in Natick Mass., As Laid Out By the Department of Public Works, July 19, 1957, R. S. Wharton Chief Engineer", which plan is filed with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds as Plan 1222 of 1957 in Book 7903, Page 334.

And further, to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept on Behalf of the Town of Natick from the owner(s) of said property at 186 East Central Street, Natick MA a grant of an easement for drainage purposes, provided that no money or other consideration shall be paid by or on behalf of the Town of Natick for the grant of such easement. The purposes of said drainage easement shall include, without limitation, construction, maintenance, repair, and replacement of drainage regarding and refilling of soil in the easement area; and entry upon the easement area for such purposes. Said easement shall be located on the property located at 186 East Central Street, Natick, MA, which property is shown on Town of Natick Assessors' Map 37 as lot 104B.

Said easement is shown on a plan of land, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Natick Town Clerk;

Glossary

ABATEMENT - Abatement is a reduction of a tax liability. The Board of Assessors grants abatements for real estate and personal property taxes in cases where an individual's assessed valuation is determined to be in excess of fair market value.

ACCRUAL BASIS FOR ACCOUNTING – A method of accounting that recognizes revenue when earned, rather than when collected, and recognizes expenses when incurred, rather than when paid.

APPROPRIATIONS - A legal authorization to expend municipal funds. Massachusetts municipal finance laws require that all general-purpose expenditures be authorized by a majority vote of Town Meeting.

There are two basic types of appropriations - operating appropriations, and special article appropriations. Operating appropriations last for one fiscal year only, and any unobligated balance is closed at the end of the fiscal year. Fire Department Salaries is an example of an operating appropriation. Special Article appropriations are generally voted for a specific project, such as the completion of a capital improvement or the purchase of a piece of capital equipment. Special article appropriations are closed upon completion of the project for which the funds were voted. Appropriations for all **Municipal** departments, boards, and committees are voted in two broad categories - salaries and expenses. Funds voted for salaries may not be expended for expenses and funds voted for expenses may not be expended for salaries, without a transfer approved by Town Meeting. There are no restrictions on **School** appropriations.

APPROPRIATED BUDGET – As used in fund summaries and department summaries within the budget document, represents the current year budget as originally adopted by Town Meeting. It does not include prior year encumbrances or re-appropriation.

ARTICLE - An article or item on the Town Warrant.

ASSESSED VALUATION - The valuation of real estate or other property determined by the Town Assessor for tax levying purposes. The Commonwealth certifies the values and methodology in determining those values every three years.

ASSETS – Property, plant and equipment owned by the Town.

AUDIT – A comprehensive examination as to the manner in which the government's resources were actually utilized concluding in a written report of its findings. An accounting audit is intended to ascertain whether financial statements fairly present the financial position and results of operations of the Town. The Town is required to conduct an audit annually.

BOND - A written promise to pay a specified sum of money, called the face value or principal amount, at a specified dates in the future, called the maturity date(s), together with periodic interest at a specified rate. The difference between notes, usually one year or two years in length and a bond is that the latter runs for a longer period of time. State statute and the Board of Selectmen establish the length of a bond repayment.

BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE (BAN) – A temporary note issued for no more than one or two years. This is commonly used to defer the initial pay down of debt or to accommodate reimbursement for borrowed notes from a private source or other governmental entity.

BUDGET - The budget is the Town's financial plan for a given fiscal period. The annual budget includes an estimate of proposed expenditures, as well as a forecast of estimated revenues and other financing sources.

The Natick Town Charter specifies that the Town Administrator is responsible for presenting a recommended annual budget to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee reviews the Town Administrator's Recommended Budget in detail and forwards its recommendations to Town Meeting. Town Meeting adopts the budget by voting a series of appropriations, which may not; in the absence of an over-ride of Proposition 2 1/2 exceed the estimated total amount of revenues and other financing sources for the fiscal period.

BUDGET MESSAGE (Town Administrator's Transmittal Letter) – The opening section of the budget that provides the Board of Selectmen, Town Meeting Members, and the general public with a general summary of the most important aspects of the budget, changes from the current and previous fiscal years, and the recommendations of the Town Administrator.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE - A major, non-recurring expenditure involving land acquisition, construction or major rehabilitation of a facility, or purchase of equipment costing \$25,000 or more with a useful life of five years or more.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) - A financial planning and management tool which: identifies public facility and equipment requirements; places these requirements in order of priority; and schedules them for funding and implementation.

CHAPTER 90 - Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90, Section 34 authorizes the Commonwealth to allocate funds to municipalities through the Transportation Bond Issue for highway construction, preservation and improvement projects that create or extend the life of capital facilities. Routine maintenance operations such as pothole filling and snow and ice removal are not covered. The formula for determining the Chapter 90 level of funding is based on a municipality's miles of public ways, population and level of employment. Municipalities receive Chapter 90 funds on pre-approved projects on a reimbursement basis.

CHERRY SHEET - The State allocates a portion of generated revenue to municipalities each year for education and general governmental expenditures. The amount of state aid each community will receive is itemized in a financial statement printed on cherry colored paper (thus the name). The amount of reimbursement is a function of the State budget. Towns usually receive notification in late summer, subsequent to the beginning of the fiscal year.

CLASSIFICATION - Massachusetts municipal finance law requires that all real estate and personal property be appraised at "full and fair cash valuation" for purposes of assessing property taxes. Once the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue certifies that properties are appraised at "full and fair cash valuation" (once every three years), the Board of Selectmen may impose a tax classification plan, whereby a portion of the residential tax burden may be shifted to the commercial/industrial class of taxpayers. The law limits the amount of tax burden which can be

shifted to the commercial/industrial class to not more than 150% of the proportionate share of the class. In other words, if the commercial/industrial class of taxpayers is normally responsible for 25% of the total tax burden, their maximum burden under the classification law is 37.5% (25×1.50).

COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS – the process following State law requiring that for purchases of \$25,000 or more a Town must advertise, solicit and publicly open sealed bids from prospective vendors. After a review period, the Town Manager then awards a contract to the successful bidder.

DEBT EXCLUSION - The amount of taxes assessed in excess of the Proposition 2-1/2 levy limit for the payment of debt service costs attributable to a vote of the electorate. Two-thirds of the Selectmen and a majority of citizens voting must approve the exclusion. These funds are raised to retire the debt service for the project. They are not added to the tax levy limit for the following fiscal year.

DEBT SERVICE - Payment of interest and principal on an obligation resulting from the issuance of bonds.

DEPARTMENT – A division of the Town that has overall management responsibility for an operation or group of related operations within a functional area.

DEPRECIATION – 1) Expiration in the service life of capital assets attributable to wear and tear, deterioration, and inadequacy of obsolescence. 2) That portion of the cost of a capital asset that is charged as an expense during a particular period. Depreciation is based on historic costs not replacement value.

ENCUMBRANCE – To encumber funds means to set aside or commit funds for a future expenditure. Encumbrances include obligations in the form of purchase orders, contracts or salary commitments, which are chargeable to an appropriation and for which a part of the appropriation is reserved.

ENTERPRISE FUNDS - Enterprise Funds are used to account for operations which are financed and operated in a manner similar to business operations and where the costs of providing goods or services are financed in whole or in part by user charges (charges for services). Services accounted for in Enterprise Funds are tangible and can be measured for determining a charge for services. In Massachusetts, the most common types of government enterprises include utility or utility-type services for water treatment and delivery, sewerage collection and treatment, and electricity generation and distribution. Less common but prevalent operations include hospitals, airports, parking, swimming pools, and golf courses. Individual services must ordinarily be accounted for in separate Enterprise Funds. Segregation is essential for determining the total cost of services and the extent to which user charges cover that cost. Although a community may decide to recover only a portion of its costs from user charges, it is essential from a management point of view that it understands what its total costs are. Such costs include amounts for repayment of long-term debt and related interest and estimates for depreciation.

EXPENDITURE – Decrease in net financial resources for the purpose of acquiring and providing goods and services.

EXPENSES – Outflows or other using up of assets or incurring of liabilities during a period from

delivering or producing goods, rendering services or carrying out other activities that constitute the entity's ongoing major or central operations. Expenses consist of the following objects of expenditure: Utilities, Supplies and Materials, Contractual Services, and Equipment.

FINES & FORFEITURES - Revenue collected from court fines, penalty charges for overdue taxes along with non-criminal fines are included in this category.

FISCAL YEAR (FY) - The Town of Natick operates on a July 1st through June 30th fiscal year.

FREE CASH - The amount certified annually by the Dept of Revenue that represents the unreserved fund balance less all outstanding tax receivables. This balance is created when actual revenues exceed those estimated and/or expenditures are less than appropriations for any given fiscal year. These funds may be appropriated by Town Meeting as a resource for the next fiscal year's operations or any other purpose authorized by state statute. The Massachusetts Department of Revenue certifies free cash each July 1st. Free Cash represents the savings account of the Town. Certified Free Cash is available for appropriation by Town Meeting for any lawful purpose.

FUND BALANCE - The amount by which cash, accounts receivable, and other assets exceed liabilities and restricted reserves. It is akin to a "stockholders' equity" account on a corporate balance sheet. It is not, however, available for appropriation in full because a portion of the assets listed as "accounts receivable" may be taxes receivable and uncollected. (See Free Cash)

FUNDING SOURCE – The specifically identified funds allocated to meet budget requirements/expenses.

GENERAL FUND - Revenues derived from the tax levy, state aid, local receipts and available funds are considered General Fund revenues. The General Fund is distinguished from Enterprise Funds and Special Revenue Funds.

GFOA – Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The G.F.O.A. is a professional organization of governmental finance officers.

GRANT – A contribution by one government unit or outside agency to another governmental unit. The contribution is usually made for a specific purpose but is sometimes for general purposes.

INVESTMENT INCOME - The Town earns interest on cash held in savings accounts and invested in short term securities. The investment goal is to ensure that all funds are invested. The term of these investments is short-term and risk adverse. The Treasurer is very restricted as to the instruments in which investments can be made. The amount of investment income is a function of the amount of funds invested and the interest rate.

LEVY LIMIT - The maximum amount of money, which the Town can raise from the property tax levy, without an override of proposition 2 1/2. Please refer to the explanation of Proposition 2 1/2 for a description of how the levy limit is calculated.

LIABILITY – Debt or other legal obligation which must be paid, renewed or refunded at some future date, but does not include encumbrances.

LOCAL RECEIPTS - A category of revenue sources including school department charges for services, investment income, fines and forfeitures, building permits and excise taxes. These revenues are not considered part of the Proposition 2 ½ Tax Levy.

MODIFIED ACCRUAL BASIS FOR ACCOUNTING – A method of accounting that recognizes revenue when it is actually received and recognizes expenditures when a commitment is made.

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE - All Massachusetts vehicle owners who have their vehicle(s) registered in the State of Massachusetts pay an annual motor vehicle excise tax to the city or town in which they reside. The Registry of Motor Vehicles creates a listing of all vehicles registered in Lexington and the book value assigned to each vehicle. The Town uses this information to bill all owners an annual tax equal to 2 ½ percent or \$25 for each \$1,000 of the vehicle's value.

MWRA – Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

NEW GROWTH - In addition to a standard 2 1/2% annual increase in the property tax levy, Proposition 2 1/2 allows the levy to be increased further by the sum of certain qualifying new construction valuation, multiplied by the prior year tax rate. Qualifying new construction valuation is known as "New Growth". In general, in order to qualify as "New Growth" the new construction valuation must be either a newly constructed house or an addition to an existing house, which adds at least 50% to the preconstruction value (residential properties). For commercial/industrial properties, "New Growth" consists of both newly built buildings, and additions, which add at least \$100,000 to the prior value of the improved property. It permanently becomes part of the tax levy.

OBLIGATION - A commitment to pay a particular sum of money (e.g. as required by contract or a bond).

OPERATING BUDGET – The portion of the budget that pertains to daily operations, which provide basic services for the fiscal year. The operating budget contains appropriations for such expenditures as personnel, supplies, utilities, materials, travel, and fuel and the proposed means of financing them.

OPERATING EXPENDITURE - An ongoing or recurring cost of performing a function or providing a service. Operating expenditures include personal services, supplies and materials, utilities, contractual services, minor equipment, and debt service.

OVERLAY - The amount raised in the tax levy for funding abatements granted by the Board of Assessors due to overvaluation.

OVERRIDE - An action taken by the voters of the town to exceed the limit placed on tax revenue growth by the State tax limitation law known as Proposition 2 ½. The tax levy limit can be exceeded only if a majority of residents voting approve an override. This sum is then added to the base levy for the next fiscal year and this becomes a permanent addition to the tax levy limit.

PROPOSITION 2 ½ - A tax limitation measure passed by Massachusetts voters in 1980 which limits the growth of the total property tax levy to 2.5% per year. In other words, the total revenue allowed

to be raised through real estate and personal property taxes cannot increase by more than 2.5% from one fiscal year to the next unless the citizens of the town approve a debt exclusion or an operating override. New construction values are in addition to this limit. Two provisions within Proposition 2 ½ allow the citizens of a community by popular vote to authorize the Town to raise taxes above the tax levy limit: an operating override or a debt exclusion.

As a consequence of this proposition, the Property Tax currently accounts for 2/3 of the Town's total revenue budget. Proposition 2 1/2, is a statutory limit on the annual rate of growth in the property tax levy of the Town. In the absence of a majority vote of approval by the Natick electorate (an override), the total amount of revenue which may be generated from the property tax is limited to: 2 1/2 more than the prior year levy limit, plus the sum of all qualifying new construction valuation multiplied by the prior year tax rate.

RESERVE FUND - An amount set aside annually within the budget of a city or town to provide a funding source for "extraordinary and unforeseen" expenditures. In a town, the Finance (or Appropriation) Committee can authorize transfers from this fund. The Reserve Fund is under the control of the Finance Committee.

RETAINED EARNINGS – The equity account reflecting the accumulated earnings of the enterprise funds.

RESOURCES - Total dollar amounts available for appropriation including estimated revenues, fund transfers, and beginning fund balances.

REVALUATION - Massachusetts municipal finance law requires that the Massachusetts Department of Revenue formally certify that property tax assessments represent the "full and fair cash valuation" of properties. The process of determining the "full and fair cash valuation" of taxable property is known as Revaluation.

REVENUE - Budgetary resources. The various revenues the Town receives are listed in the Revenue Summary in the Budget Overview section.

REVOLVING FUND – As authorized under M.G.L. Ch. 53 E ½, departmental revolving funds allow communities to raise revenues from a specific service and use those revenues without appropriation to support the service. Each revolving fund must be re-authorized each year at annual town meeting or by city council action, and that a limit on the total amount that may be spent from each fund must be established at that time. The aggregate of all revolving funds may not exceed ten percent of the amount raised by taxation by the city or town in the most recent fiscal year, and no more than one percent of the amount raised by taxation may be administered by a single fund. Wages or salaries for full-time employees may be paid from the revolving fund only if the fund is also charged for all associated fringe benefits.

SCHOOL BUILDING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SBAB) – A program started by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the purpose of assisting municipalities in the reconstruction and renewal of its public schools.

SCHOOL REVENUE - Revenue received by Lexington Public Schools from athletic fees, rental of school facilities, and bus transportation fees is included in this category.

SEWER & WATER CHARGES - The Town operates Water and Sewer Enterprise Funds to manage these municipal operations. Users of sewer and water services provided by the Town pay charges depending upon usage. Revenue received from charges for sewer and water services is used to fully support the costs of utility operations, such as Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) assessments, debt service obligations, personal service costs, and capital projects. Charges for services are based on an eight-tier block rate structure corresponding to usage. Charges rise as usage increases. The Town pays the MWRA assessments to supply quality water and dispose of Town sewage. Large increases in water and sewer rates have and will continue to occur as the MWRA raises assessments to cover their costs for sewage treatment and Boston Harbor clean-up efforts.

STABILIZATION FUND – Massachusetts General Law Ch.40, Sec. 5B, allows a municipality to appropriate in any year an amount not exceeding ten percent of the amount raised in the preceding fiscal year; the aggregate amount in the fund shall not exceed ten percent of the equalized valuation of the municipality. The treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and may invest the proceeds legally; any interest earned shall remain with the fund. Money from the Stabilization Fund may be appropriated for any lawful purpose by two-thirds vote of Town Meeting.

TAX LEVY - The total amount to be raised through real estate and personal property taxes. Lexington property owners pay taxes to the Town based on the assessed value of their real and/or personal property. Each year the Board of Selectmen conducts a tax classification hearing to determine a tax rate. The Town Assessor makes adjustments to real estate values in order to properly reflect fair market value. In addition to real estate, businesses may also pay a personal property tax (set at the commercial rate) based on the value of their professional equipment, furniture and fixtures. The amount of taxes a property owner pays is determined by multiplying the applicable tax rate by the valuation. For example, if the tax rate is \$10 and a property's assessed value is \$100,000, the property owner will pay \$10 times \$100,000/1,000, or \$1,000. Tax levy revenues are the largest source of funding for the Town. These revenues support most school, police, fire, public works, library, and general governmental services to the community.

TAX LEVY LIMIT - The maximum amount that can be raised within Proposition 2 ½.

TAX RATE - The amount of tax levied for each \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

USER FEES - Fees paid for direct receipt of a public service by the user or beneficiary of the service.

Demographics & Information

History

The Town of Natick is a suburban industrial center located on the upper basin of the Charles and Concord Rivers with an extensive complex of ponds. The town was from earliest Colonial days a prime target for development, possessing as it did good agricultural land, fish runs and water power. Established in 1650 on the Charles River, Natick had the first and the largest Indian praying town in the colonies, one that became a model for all other attempts to inculcate European standards into Indians. John Eliot, the great missionary, secured a charter of 6,000 acres for the Indians and converted them to Christianity. Unfortunately, Natick's Indian population was forcibly resettled on Deer Island during the King Philip's war and essentially never returned.



In Colonial days, Natick was an agricultural community with some orchards and some lumbering. Grist and sawmills were established and Indian ownership and control gave way to white dominance between 1676 and 1776. Local tradition claims that several loads of Natick men shipped out to the California gold rush in 1849 and 1850, returning with enough capital to start independent businesses in the town. The shoe industry dominated the community by the early 19th century, with the first shoe sole manufacturer established in 1827 and shoes shipped to the southern and western markets by 1830. The town's products, including baseballs manufactured in Natick, were shipped to Boston on the Boston and Worcester Railroad. The town saw rapid growth including an Irish, English, Nova Scotian, Italian and Armenian immigrant population which came to take jobs in the shoe plants and by the 1880's, Natick was the third largest shoe production community in the country.

Demographic & Geographic Information

Settlement Date: 1651

Incorporation Date: Natick was incorporated as a Town on February 19, 1781.

County: Middlesex

Location: Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Framingham on the west, Wayland and Weston on the north, Wellesley and Dover on the east, and Dover and Sherborn on the south. Natick is 18 miles southwest of Boston; 25 miles east of Worcester; 35 miles north of Providence, Rhode Island; and about 201 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 16.06 sq. miles

Land Area: 15.09 sq. miles

Population: 32,170

2008 Labor Force: 18,689

1999 Per Capita Income: 36,358

2007 Population Per Square Mile: 2,120.4

2007 Housing Units Per Square Mile: 886.5

2007 Road Miles: 154.29

Number of Registered Vehicles (January 2008): 32,991

Average Age of Vehicles (January 2008): 9.03

Government & Elections Information

School Structure: K-12

Form of Government: Town Administrator-Selectmen-Representative Town Meeting

Registered Voters: (as of December 31, 2007) 20,845

Democratic 7,338

Republican 2,709

Unenrolled 10,697

Socialist 3

Green Rainbow Party 21

Independent 3rd Party 9

Libertarian Party 58

Working Families 6

American Independent 2

Reform Party 2

Area: 15.99 sq. miles

Town Offices:

Town Hall, 13 East Central Street

US Senators:

John F. Kerry & Scott Brown

Representative in Congress:

Edward J. Markey

State Senators:

Karen Spilka, Precincts 1-5, & 8

Richard J. Ross, Precincts 6-7 & 9-10

State Representatives:

David Paul Linsky, Precincts 1-9

Alice Hanlon Peisch, Precinct 10

Voting Qualifications: Must be 18 years of age on or before Election Day, born in the United States or fully naturalized; a resident of Natick.

Registration of Voters: Town Clerk's Office, 13 East Central Street, daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Where to Vote (Precinct Numbers):

Kennedy Middle School, 163 Mill Street (1)

Cole Recreational Center, 179 Boden Lane (2)

Kennedy Middle School, 163 Mill Street (3)

Wilson Middle School, 24 Rutledge Road (4)

Wilson Middle School, 24 Rutledge Road (5)

Lilja School, 41 Bacon Street at Oak Street (6)

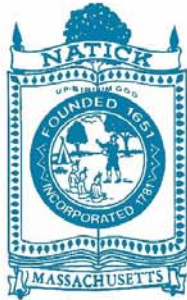
Lilja School, 41 Bacon Street at Oak Street (7)

Natick High School, 15 West Street (8)

Morse Institute Library, 14 East Central St. (9)

Memorial School, 107 Eliot Street (10)

Areas of Interest

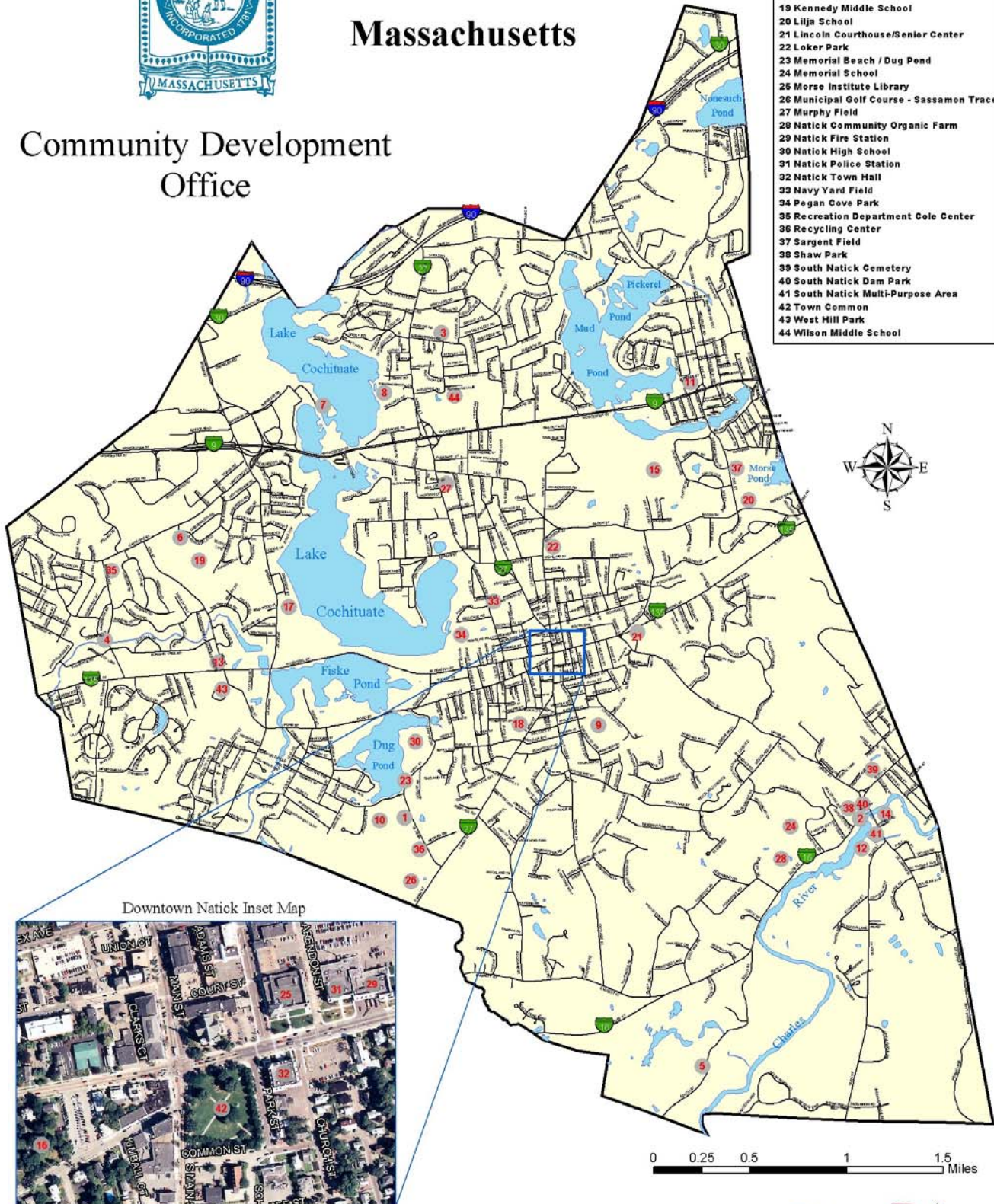


Town of Natick Massachusetts

Community Development
Office

Key to Areas of Interest

- 1 Track around NHS Football Field
- 2 Bacon Free Library
- 3 Bennet Hemenway School
- 4 Boden Lane Cemetery
- 5 Broadmoor Sanctuary
- 6 Brown School
- 7 Camp Arrowhead
- 8 Camp Mary Bunker
- 9 Coolidge Field/Woods
- 10 Department of Public Works
- 11 East Natick School
- 12 Grove Park
- 13 Henry Wilson Memorial
- 14 Hunnewell Fields
- 15 Hunnewell Town Forest
- 16 Indian Burial Ground
- 17 John J. Lane Park
- 18 Johnson School
- 19 Kennedy Middle School
- 20 Liija School
- 21 Lincoln Courthouse/Senior Center
- 22 Loker Park
- 23 Memorial Beach / Dug Pond
- 24 Memorial School
- 25 Morse Institute Library
- 26 Municipal Golf Course - Sassamon Trace
- 27 Murphy Field
- 28 Natick Community Organic Farm
- 29 Natick Fire Station
- 30 Natick High School
- 31 Natick Police Station
- 32 Natick Town Hall
- 33 Navy Yard Field
- 34 Pagan Cove Park
- 35 Recreation Department Cole Center
- 36 Recycling Center
- 37 Sargent Field
- 38 Shaw Park
- 39 South Natick Cemetery
- 40 South Natick Dam Park
- 41 South Natick Multi-Purpose Area
- 42 Town Common
- 43 West Hill Park
- 44 Wilson Middle School





**Town of Natick
13 E. Central Street
Natick, MA 01760**

IMPORTANT TOWN BUSINESS